

# School 7a Work

## Missouri's Community Careers System

Vol. 1, No. 9

A school-to-work update newsletter

September 1, 1999

### Reeds Spring Students Give the Gift of Green

Botany students at Reeds Spring High School in Reeds Spring, Mo., are helping to give the "Gift of Green" to Stone and Taney County residents.

The "Gift of Green" project was started several years ago by Silver Dollar City Theme Park co-owner Jack Herschend. The theme park purchases white pine tree seedlings from the Department of Conservation and private vendors. The seedlings are potted and kept at Bull Creek Nursery, a local nursery, until they are about three years old. The trees are then given away to area residents along with planting instructions. Each year several thousand seedlings are potted and raised to ensure a plentiful supply of trees.

Several years ago, Mike Collins, a botany and biology teacher, asked Herschend if his students could help expand the program.

During the first year, Collins' students spent time working in the nursery repotting trees and mulching. The project was soon taken over by Collins' botany students and this year his students will have given away 1,000 trees to Stone County residents.

While working at the nursery students noticed that the seedlings were dying as soon as they were transplanted from their damp

wrapping to soil. The trees' mortality rate sometimes reached as high as 60 percent.

In the spring of 1999, about 30 students in Collins' botany class, in partnership with Silver Dollar City, decided to determine why the soil was causing the seedlings to die.



Collins and his students worked with several soil mixtures over a period of several months.

Using the scientific method, students grew eight groups of trees in eight different soil samples using the soil as the only variable. Students monitored the soil for its pH balance,

temperature and mineral levels. They graphed the data and made a final analysis and recommendation to Herschend based on the results of their study.

The study resulted in the identification of a soil mixture that lowered the mortality rate of the trees to an acceptable level.

The experiment results have been disseminated to the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri and the two now recommend the soil mixture for optimum white pine growth.

Collins expects that his students will conduct similar experiments in the future. Peak Minerals in Branson, Mo., has contacted Collins to have his students conduct an experiment on the effects of azomite, a mineral, has on the soil. Pointe Royale Golf Course is expected to be a partner in the project.

Additionally, B&W Organics in Sulphur Springs, Texas, has asked the students to conduct research in concert with Clemson University on the use of seaweed derivatives and how they react with compost to enhance germination and growth rates.

For more information about this project contact Reeds Spring School-to-Work Coordinator Julie Bloodworth at (417) 272-8171.

### Report: Colleges and Business Must Unite to Design Better Curriculum

Businesses must work with two- and four-year colleges to instill 21st Century workforce concepts into curricula and teaching methods, according to a new report.

The report released last month by the Business-Higher Education Forum says schools should integrate into the core curriculum methods of helping students acquire personal traits such as a positive work ethic, adaptability, self-management, global consciousness and a passion for life-long learning.

The Forum, a partnership of the American Council on Education (ACE) and the National Alliance of Business, says the revamped core curriculum should aim to help students develop flexible and cross-functional skills, including leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, time management, communication and analytical thinking.

The report, a result of five years of collaboration between higher education and business, offers yet another high-profile

blueprint for preparing tomorrow's workforce. Earlier reports published in the 1990s such as "America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages" and "Workforce 2000" also have sought to blend predictions of workforce trends with suggested strategies for schools and employers.

"College graduates of today are going to face even more challenges during their careers in the 21st century global business environment," ACE President Stanley Ikenberry said. "This report suggests specific ways campuses and corporate American can work together to see that students are well prepared to make a smooth transition to the workforce."

Specifically, the report's recommendations seek to answer two questions.

First — how to ensure the students acquire the skills and attributes necessary to succeed in today's high performance workplace? — the Forum recommends the revamped curricula.

Second — what can higher education and industry officials do to help students develop these skills? — the report suggests that:

- \* Both sectors provide increased opportunities for college students to take theoretical concepts and apply them to "real" learning experiences;

- \* University career service advisors become more visible on campus and build stronger links to corporate recruiters; and

- \* Faculty be provided with rewards and incentives for developing partnerships and shared ventures with businesses.

The report also features case studies of successful collaborations and a "call-to-action" that lists steps businesses and universities can take to help students prepare for careers, including structured exchange programs between higher education faculty and business personnel, and work experience programs for college students.

To obtain a copy of the report "Spanning the Chasm: A Blueprint for Action" send \$14 to ACE Fulfillment, Dept. 191, Washington, DC 20055-0191, (301) 604-0158; or visit [www.bhef.com](http://www.bhef.com).

— *Vocational Training News*

### Legislation: Help for Disabled, More Federal Funds,

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill to help people with disabilities return to careers and the workplace.

The bill will provide beneficiaries with voucher-like tickets that they can use to get rehabilitation, employment and other support services. Republicans estimate that the bill, HR 1180, will help 35,000 people with disabilities return to work over the next 10 years.

The U.S. House of Representatives also passed Resolution 303 "Dollars for the Classroom", calling for the U.S. Education Department to work with states and school districts to ensure that 95 percent of federal elementary and secondary education funds are used to improve academic achievement.

Republicans argue that just 84 percent of federal education funds make it to the classroom, however a new General Accounting Office re-

### New Science Standards

port says nearly all funds make it to the local level.

The House also passed a bill that will add science as one of the core curriculum emphasized by Title I.

Bill HR 2, which is part of the House's effort to rework the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, will require states to set academic standards for science by 2005. Currently, Title I requires states to only set such standards for math and reading.



## Calendar

### \* New-Jan. 20 - "School-to-Career Partnership Forum" (Kansas City, Mo.)

Presentation proposals are being accepted for the 2000 forum June 28-29. For selection criteria and additional information contact SkillsUSA-VICA (703) 737-0633 or (703) 737-0622.

### \* Dec. 12-14 - "Learning for the 21st Century: Community Solutions for K-12 Success" (Reston, Va.)

Sponsored by the Utility Business Education Coalition, the meeting will provide opportunities for utility, community-based business executives and their partners to increase knowledge and develop skills to lead and advance local-level school improvements. For more information call (703) 391-0022.

### \* Dec. 12-15 - ACTE Convention and Trade Show (Orlando, Fla.)

Sponsored by the Association for Career and Technical Education, this conference will feature seminars on the hospitality industry, creating a comprehensive guidance program and technology as a teaching tool. For more information contact ACTE at (800) 826-9972 or visit [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org).

### \* Feb. 16-19 - "Bet on a Better Future" Learning Disabilities Association International Conference (Reno, Nev.)

The conference will feature presentations on current research, new approaches to remediation, current laws, the new IDEA regulations, uses of technology, and developing effective advocacy skills. For more information contact LDA at (412) 341-1515.

### \* Feb. 24 - "Spotlighting Best Practices Through Public Relations" (Columbia, Mo.)

Sponsored by Missouri Vocational Education, this workshop will feature public relations strategies for educators. For more information contact MOVE at (660) 530-5800 ext. 273.

### \* March 13-16 - Academic/Vocational Integrated Curriculum Conference (Las Vegas, NV)

Sponsored by the National School Conference Institute, the conference is geared toward School-to-Career, Tech Prep and Assessment personnel. It will feature workshops on career development, career guidance strategies and curriculum integration. For more information contact NSCI at (888) 399-5745 or visit [www.nscinet.com](http://www.nscinet.com).

### \* March 27-29 - National Congress on Childhood Emergencies (Baltimore, Md.)

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program will sponsor the conference. Health care providers, administrators, consultants, advocates and vendors will address the entire system of pediatric emergency care, including illness and injury prevention, primary care, emergency room care, acute care, rehabilitation, and re-entry into the community. For more information call (202) 884-4927 or visit [www.ems-c.org](http://www.ems-c.org).

### \* May 9-12 - "Partnerships for a New Century" (San Diego, Calif.)

The conference is sponsored by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. It will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. For more information contact NAWDP at (202) 887-6120 or visit [www.nawdp.org](http://www.nawdp.org).

### \* June 28-29 - "School-to-Career Partnership Forum" (Kansas City, Mo.)

For more information contact SkillsUSA-VICA at (703) 737-0633 or (703) 737-0622.

## Grant Opportunities

### \* Pentair Foundation Career Development, School-to-Work:

Pentair Inc., a manufacturer of professional tools and equipment gives grants through The Pentair Foundation, with a focus on K-12 education and community programs, including vocational education.

**Deadline:** March 1, June 1 and Oct. 1.  
**Funds:** \$3.1 million in 1998, including \$1.7 million from the foundation and the remainder from corporate contributions. 1998 was the foundation's first year of grantmaking. Grants average \$10,000 for one year.

**Areas:** School-to-Work, including work readiness, career development and guidance on college options; alternative education, with special emphasis on environments that support student's individual skill levels and needs; and arts education that introduces students to art concepts, processes and applications.

Community grants fund organizations that aim to improve the lives of individuals. Interest areas include job training, education assistance and resources; opportunities for youths to acquire and build life skills in an environment that promotes understanding and respect; basic needs and support services for youths in crisis; and assistance, education and information for people with physical or mental disabilities or serious illness.

**Contact:** For guidelines and eligible locations contact Jeanne Benson or Michelle Warkentien, The Pentair Foundation, Waters Edge Plaza, 1500 County Rd. B2 West, St. Paul, MN 55113-3105, (651) 636-7920; e-mail, [Jeanne.Benson@pentair.com](mailto:Jeanne.Benson@pentair.com) and [Michelle.Warkentien@pentair.com](mailto:Michelle.Warkentien@pentair.com); [www.pentair.com/ci/ci\\_pf.htm](http://www.pentair.com/ci/ci_pf.htm).

### \* Phelps Dodge Corporation Technical, Vocational Institution Support:

Phelps Dodge Corporation, a mining

and manufacturing company, supports education, arts and culture, health and human services, and civic activities, through the Phelps Dodge Foundation and direct corporate contributions.

In the area of education, the Phelps Dodge Foundation funds technical and vocational institutions, community schools and colleges and provides general support for education programs sponsored by a school district. Corporate dollars target primary and secondary education, with priority on programs to strengthen math, science and literacy skills among K-12 students, on the efforts to address specific education gaps in a community. Programs geared toward minority students are also of interest.

Health and human services grants include support of youth organizations.

Civic activities funding targets programs addressing community improvement; justice and law; research; the environment; and international, national and local public policy.

**Deadline:** None. Applicants will receive a response within 60 days. Requests must be in writing.

**Funds:** Requests for more than \$5,000 must include, in addition to a project summary, a brief description of how the proposal addresses needs not met by other nonprofit organizations; why the organization is qualified to meet those needs; a clear statement of expected results; and an evaluation plan.

**Contact:** In communities where Phelps Dodge has a presence, apply directly to the local facility. Outside of the company's operating areas, write Contributions Administrator, Phelps Dodge Corporation, 2600 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004-3014, (602) 234-8100. For more information visit [www.phelpsdodge.com/community/Giving/index.html](http://www.phelpsdodge.com/community/Giving/index.html).

## Resources

\* **Schooled to Work: Vocationalism and the American Curriculum, 1876-1946**, outlines vocational education and surrounding issues. Author Herbert Kliebard also notes how reform initiatives such as tech prep and School-to-Work try to bridge academic and vocational education.

Contact Teachers College Press at Columbia University 800-575-6566; product ISBN 0-8077-3866-2; \$22.95.

\* **Career Guidance Resource Guide for Elementary and Middle/Junior High**

Educators, contains a wealth of materials and resources on career guidance activities.

To order call 800-637-7652; product MDS-1130; \$17.50.

\* **School-to-Work and Elementary Education**, provides a synopsis of STW and provides examples of promising initiatives across the country.

Available on the internet at <http://ericacve.org>. For paper copies call 800-848-4815, ext. 2-8625, or e-mail [wagner.6@osu.edu](mailto:wagner.6@osu.edu).

## Missouri's Community Careers System Directory

### State Management Team

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### Institute for Workforce Education, University of Missouri

\* Susie Cox, Director IWE - (573) 884-8034

\* Dr. Harley Schlichting - (573) 882-2841

### Missouri Transition Alliance Partnership (MOTAP)

\* John Bamberg, Supervisor Transition Services - (573) 526-0298

### Child Labor and Safety Consultant

\* Khesha Dmcan, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards - (573) 474-7768

Address comments and suggestions to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education c/o Michelle Corcoran, Missouri's Community Careers System, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, Mo., 65102 or e-mail comments to [mcorcora@mail.dese.state.mo.us](mailto:mcorcora@mail.dese.state.mo.us).